

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Michael Guarco, Chairman; Gordon Bischoff, Francis Brady, Robert Clark, Frederick Moffa, O.D., and Al Wilke

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; John Adams, First Selectman; and Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

The meeting of the Board of Finance was called to order by Chairman Michael Guarco at 7:30 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION OF \$11,400,000 FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Town Manager Smith gave a background history of events leading up to the appropriation and bond authorization request. He stated that the Capital Program Priority Advisory Committee (CPPAC) had met and approved several capital projects for the town and school and had requested action be taken by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen approved the projects on November 21, 2011 for action by the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance and CPPAC reviewed various capital models to determine the affordability of these projects. On December 5, 2011 the Board of Selectmen approved bond resolutions regarding appropriation and bond authorization of the \$11.4M for various public improvement projects. In order to proceed, the Board of Finance must vote to pass an appropriation and bond authorization resolution. A town meeting will be scheduled on January 10, 2012 for further discussion with citizens of Granby and a referendum vote from the town meeting will be on January 17, 2012 in accordance with town charter. The largest capital projects are Silver Street Bridge, Athletic Fields, and purchase of the Evonsion farm.

Mr. Clark asked if any money from this bond authorization was going for refunding of existing bond debt. Town Manager Smith replied no, it was not cost beneficial to add this to the bond authorization. It was also asked how much money was already appropriated for the Silver Street Bridge. Town Manager Smith explained the Silver Street Bridge had earlier design phases appropriations. In addition, approximately \$100,000 is in this appropriation for the cost of issuing the bonds. The bridge is at the construction phase presently. In response to a question, Town Manager Smith indicated if a particular improvement project did not cost as predicted, that portion of the money must be used for debt service.

Town Manager Smith indicated he and the Town Treasurer will be working with bank advisors and the bonding attorney on the final documents after town meeting and referendum vote. The Board of Selectmen adopted the resolution hearing no negative feedback regarding the public improvement projects. The Board of Education continues to work regarding a purchase of land and will report back to the Board of Finance the results of the purchase of land request or the request to proceed with the second artificial field as mentioned in previous meetings. This information is needed prior to holding the town meeting.

Mr. Wilke and Mr. Brady thanked Mr. Bischoff and CPPAC for the efforts made to determine affordability from the capital projects review, prioritization of the projects, and financial modeling.

Town Manager Smith will keep the Boards apprised of the public improvement projects as matters develop.

On a **MOTION** by Al Wilke, seconded by Francis Brady, the Board voted unanimously (6-0-0) to approve the recommendation by the Board of Selectmen on December 5, 2011 for the resolution entitled Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$11,400,000 Various Public Improvement Projects. The resolution as approved follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

**Re: Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$11,400,000 for Various Public Improvement Projects**

**WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2011, the Board of Selectmen adopted a resolution to recommend to the Board of Finance that it appropriate \$11,400,000 and finance such appropriation with the issuance of bonds for various public improvement projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Finance wishes to approve such recommendation,

**NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Granby (the "Town") on recommendation from the Board of Selectmen, approves and recommends to all persons qualified to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$11,400,000 be appropriated for the cost of the various public improvement projects including, but not limited to, the design, construction, reconstruction, renovation and repair to the Silver Street Bridge, Salmon Brook Pond House, Library Roof, Tennis Courts, Public Works Wash and Storage Bays, Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvements, High School Electronics Laboratory and Athletic Fields; the purchase and installation of generators, certain furnishings and equipment; and the purchase of certain real property known as the Evonsion Farm and land adjacent to the Cossitt Library and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project"), and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$11,400,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor.

### **CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 FOR TOWN CLEANUP OPERATIONS FOLLOWING STORM ALFRED**

Town Manager Smith reported the tree and brush cleanup from Storm Alfred was a huge undertaking and it turned out the job estimate was nearly two times the original estimate of \$1M. The original accumulation estimate was 20,000 to 30,000 cubic yards and it turned out to be more than doubled, plus more chipping of tree material, and monitoring services. It is suggested the previous appropriation be rescinded. The Board of Finance concurred with the request to rescind the \$1M appropriation.

Town Manager Smith commented Granby was hit hard by this storm. Surrounding towns are also experiencing similar problems regarding the first estimate costs of tree and brush removal. The Department of Public Works has some work left to do from Storm Alfred. The Transfer

Station (drop site) will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the month of December. There may be other expenses to pay related to Storm Alfred for Public Works and Police Department overtime and miscellaneous expenses from Lost Acres Fire Department and the Senior Center.

Consequently, because of the dollar value of the cleanup, the Town Attorney recommends a town meeting and a referendum vote in accordance with town charter. It is important to relay to town residents that this appropriation, even though large, is expected to be reimbursed at 75%, making the final local cost at \$500,000. However, the reimbursement will not be received before full payment is requested.

On a **MOTION** by Gordon Bischoff, seconded by Frederick Moffa, O.D., the Board voted unanimously (6-0-0) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for town cleanup operations following Storm Alfred.

#### **CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a **MOTION** by Francis Brady, seconded by Al Wilke, the Board voted unanimously (6-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski  
Recording Secretary